

# Press Release

## HARFORD COUNTY GOVERNMENT

### Department of Emergency Services



#### PUBLIC SAFETY

"Ensuring a Safe  
Harford"

#### EDUCATION

"Preparing Now,  
Building for the Future"

#### EFFICIENCY IN GOVERNMENT

"Governing Smarter"

#### ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

"Growing and Sustaining  
Harford's Prosperity"

#### ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

"Protecting Our  
Environment"

#### QUALITY LIVING

"Safeguarding What is  
Important to Harford  
County Citizens"

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 30, 2014

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### **Harford County Officials Urge Fireworks Safety for the Fourth of July**

(Forest Hill, MD) - - The Harford County Department of Emergency Services (DES) is urging citizens and visitors to Harford County to refrain from using illegal or contraband fireworks this Fourth of July holiday. Officials are concerned with the ever present danger from illegal fireworks which may result in fires, burns, hands and eye injuries.

The State of Maryland is one of several states that ban most forms of fireworks and small explosive devices for use by the general public.

According to statistics released by the National Fire Protection Association, in 2011, fireworks caused an estimated 17,800 fires, including more than 1,200 structure fires, 400 vehicle fires and more than 16,000 outdoor fires. These incidents resulted in eight (8) civilian deaths, 40 civilian injuries and millions of dollars in property damage.

Additionally, statistics compiled by the NFPA indicate the risk of fireworks injury is highest for young people ages 15 – 24, followed by children under 10 years of age.

Despite the dangers of fireworks, people do not seem to understand the devastating injuries to the hands, eyes and head area these devices can produce.

Commenting on fireworks safety, Russell J. Strickland, Director of the Department of Emergency Services said, "I highly recommend the public refrain from using illegal fireworks in Harford County this holiday weekend. The safest place to enjoy fireworks is by attending one of the many licensed, regulated fireworks displays in the state this week", Strickland added.

For an updated list of public fireworks displays in the State of Maryland this Fourth of July holiday, visit the Maryland State Fire Marshal website at [www.mdsp.org/firemarshal](http://www.mdsp.org/firemarshal).

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"Preserving Harford's past; promoting Harford's future"

*The Mission of the Department of Emergency Services is provide quality emergency and support services to address the public safety needs of citizens, businesses and emergency responders in Harford County. Our services will be delivered in a manner that is professional and reflects our commitment to excellence.*

